

(iii) A National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the persons with disabilities to set up Self- Employment ventures.

(iv) In order to affectively deal with multi-dimensional problem of the handicapped population, the Ministry has set up Four National Institutes which are Apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, rehabilitation etc. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped is located in Mumbai.

(v) District Rehabilitation Centre scheme was started during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to rural disabled right at their doorsteps. One of the centres is located in Virar, Maharashtra.

(vi) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, financial assistance to tune of 80% is being given to State Government for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges and upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges.

(vii) Under the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, three Districts of Maharashtra have been covered where the District Centres are being set up to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.

(viii) A total of 107 Districts have been selected all over the country, out of which six Centers are identified in Maharashtra, where District Centres are being set up. These centers will provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities to enable them to become self-reliant and productive.

**Representation regarding central aid for implementation of Disabilities Act, 1995 from Kerala**

1097. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Kerala has submitted any representation regarding Central aid for the implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry had received a letter from Minister for Industries & Social Welfare, Govt. of Kerala regarding allotment of funds to the State of Kerala for implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. It is a statutory responsibility on the part of appropriate Governments including State Governments to implement various provisions of the Act. In view of this, the State of Kerala has been requested to bear the expenditure for undertaking various activities for implementation of Act.

However, under the National Programme of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), which is implemented in the State Sector and the Scheme on Employment of Disabled, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, financial support has been provided to the State of Kerala.

**NGOs Working to promote voluntary action for persons with Disabilities in Gujarat**

1098. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of NGOs working on Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities in Gujarat;

(b) the assistance extended to the organisations involved therein since operation of the scheme; and

(c) the extent of progress made, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The particulars of NGOs working on the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities in Gujarat and the extent of assistance extended under the above Scheme which came into operation from 1.4.99 are given in the Statement (See below)

(c) The Working of these NGOs is monitored through regular inspections by the agencies of the State Govt. as well as designated inspection teams. The grants are continued on receipt of satisfactory inspection report and the audited utilisation certificate in respect of the grants given earlier.